

***You Shall Receive Power: Leaning into the Forgotten God***  
**Being Thirsty and Ready for the Spirit**  
**John 7:37-39**

*Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, April 30, 2017*

Three questions to ask yourself from **John 7:37-39**, that could really clarify where you are spiritually:

**I. Are You Thirsty?**

Jesus was looking for people in the crowd who knew they were sinners and also knew that these temporary sacrifices and festivals could never truly take away their sins and make them clean.

The invitation that Jesus gives is for anyone. It's universal. There are no ethnic, intellectual, or social qualifications for drinking from Jesus.

There's only one condition: You have to be thirsty, aware of your own sin, as well as the fact that there's no other solution in the world.

Because we're created in the image of God, all of us thirst for Him, but because we're born sinners we try to quench that thirst everywhere and anywhere except in God.

We're the only part of God's creation that's born with a chronic longing. Everything we set our hand to gets old, because we were made for God!

**II. Are You Willing to Come to Christ with Your Thirst?**

The invitation in **v. 37** to come to Christ and drink, is an invitation to believe in Him, that He is who He says He is, and to find a soul-satisfaction you can't find anywhere else in this world.

The clearest evidence for this connection between believing and drinking can be found in **John 6:35**.

**III. Are You Seeing His Promise Fulfilled in Your Life?**

**John 7:38-39** "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

There are two parts to this promise:

**A. There's No Limit to the Spirit's Work IN You**

He said you would have rivers of living water. In other words, you'll have unending and constant supply.

**B. It was Never His Intent that the Spirit's Work IN You Should End WITH You**

The flow into you was meant to flow out of you onto others around you. If God's Spirit is doing a life-giving work in you, it shouldn't be a secret to others around you!

A true Christian, who has the gift of the Spirit, becomes a refreshing fountain of water for other people.

- When people get around you and spend time with you, are they refreshed or drained? Are they recharged or depleted by you?

What does the work of the Spirit IN you look like?

### **1. The Spirit Helps You Make Much of Jesus**

There are two ditches we need to stay out of:

- One ditch is filled with Christians who completely ignore the Holy Spirit and act like the Bible alone is enough. They either don't think they need Him or they're scared of Him. In their effort to exalt God's Word, they diminish God's Spirit.
- The other ditch is filled with Christians who are so taken with the Spirit that it's all they talk about and focus on. They're often completely unhinged from any guidance from God's Word as to what the Spirit will or will not do in your midst.

The Holy Spirit's main ministry was to come to make us more like Christ and to give us power to talk about Him to others! **John 16:12-15** tells us that the Spirit has a spotlight ministry that focuses on Jesus.

Here's how you know Spirit's working in your life:

- You keep seeing more of your Savior
- Your love for Jesus is growing deeper and deeper
- Your understanding of what He did for you on the cross moves you so much more deeply
- Your thoughts of Him are so more frequent throughout the day
- You find yourself wanting to tell others about Him and to see Him glorified in other's lives!

### **2. The Spirit Helps You Become More Like Jesus by Putting to Death Sin**

As the Spirit is overflowing in you, your awareness of sin is heightened, not diminished or ignored.

The fullness of the presence of God's Spirit in your life will begin to expose pockets of sin like pride, selfishness, self-pity and dishonesty. He begins to convict you of lots of things that before you could live with, but now you can't live with it anymore.

- If you say the Spirit is doing a good work in your life, are you less prideful and selfish? Are you giving and willing to sacrifice for others? Are you more committed to obeying God's Word, even if it means doing something hard that's gonna inconvenience your life? Are you more courageous and bold to speak up for Jesus?

That's what the rivers of living water look like in the life of someone who's been given God's Spirit.